

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE MET IN BAHRAIN TO AWARD ITS FIRST GRANTS

The Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Future met in Manama, Bahrain on May 29th and 30th in order to review grant proposals submitted to the Foundation.

The Board decided to award grants to five proposals based on the soundness of the proposed projects and their consistency with the overall mission and stated goals of the Foundation. Those approved for grants include a center for media excellence for the region, a civil society resource center, the promotion of an independent judiciary in Egypt, funding for the Palestinian central election committee and a human rights education program for women.

“The Board members are pleased with the quality of proposals being received from throughout the region and look forward to working with these highly committed civil society actors,” said Anwar Ibrahim, Chairman of the Board and President of the Foundation.

The amount of funds now approved for award by the Foundation for the Future to grantees totals nearly \$400,000 dollars.

In addition, the Board welcomed its new Chief Operating Officer, Francesco Rosa, who will be operating from the office in Amman.

-- For further information please contact info@foundationforfuture.org or call +1.202.464.6013.

Background on the Foundation for the Future

The Foundation for the Future was established in 2006 as a multilateral, non-governmental, non-profit entity with a focus on grant making in support of rule of law, independent media, empowerment of women, civic education and the engagement of youth. The establishment of the Foundation represents a commitment to provide civil society actors in the Middle East and North Africa with the tools to enhance their efforts in these areas.

The Foundation was created by consensus between the regional civil society organizations and the ministers of several countries from the broader Middle East and North Africa, the G8 and Europe, and was first announced at the Forum for the Future in Bahrain in November 2005. To date, slightly more than \$4 million has been received by the Foundation from Denmark, Greece, Jordan, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The Board is composed of a group of independent individuals with diverse backgrounds and experience. The members of the Board are: Anwar Ibrahim, Rahma Bourquia, Kamel Abu Jaber, Bakhtiar Amin, Andreu Claret Serra, Burhan Ghalioun, Ibrahim Kalin, Jamil Mroue, Sandra Day O'Connor, Abdul Rahman al Rashed, Naguib Sawiris, and Cornelio Sommaruga.